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General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 20 (a)
Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, by which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",

Emphasizing the need for an improved and more effective institutional framework for sustainable development, which should be guided by the specific functions required and mandates involved, address the shortcomings of the current system, take into account all relevant implications, promote synergies and coherence, seek to avoid duplication and eliminate unnecessary overlaps within the United Nations system and reduce administrative burdens and build on existing arrangements,

Recalling the decision contained in paragraph 84 of the outcome document of the Conference[1] to establish a universal intergovernmental high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which would subsequently replace the Commission, as well as the decision that the high-level political forum should follow on the implementation of sustainable development and should avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner,

Reaffirming the role and authority of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, and its central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and

[1] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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representative organ of the United Nations, and recognizing the need for it to further integrate sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities,

Reaffirming also the commitment to strengthen the Economic and Social Council, within its mandate under the Charter, as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognizing the key role of the Council in achieving the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] Agenda 21,[3] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[5] and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[6]

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action)[7] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[8]

Recalling further the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action),[9] the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[10] the political declaration on Africa's development needs[11] and the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[12]

Recalling the commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields,

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[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), resolution 2, annex.

[6] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 1, annex II.

[9] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[10] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[11] Resolution 63/1.

[12] A/57/304, annex.

including the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[13] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[14] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[15] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development:[16] outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[17] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[18] the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[19] and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[20]

Recalling also its resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the lessons learned from the Commission on Sustainable Development;[21]

2. *Decides* that the high-level political forum, consistent with its universal intergovernmental character, shall provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges;

3. *Also decides* that the meetings of the forum will be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council;

4. *Further decides* that all meetings of the forum will provide for the full and effective participation of all Member States of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies;

5. *Decides* that, in all meetings of the forum, every effort shall be made to reach consensus;

6. *Also decides* that the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly:

(a) Will be convened at the level of Heads of State and Government;

(b) Will be convened every four years by the President of the General Assembly for a period of two days, at the beginning of the Assembly session, as

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[13] Resolution 55/2.

[14] Resolution 60/1.

[15] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[16] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[17] Resolution 65/1.

[18] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. 1, resolution 1, annex.

[19] Resolution S-21/1, annex.

[20] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[21] A/67/757.

well as on other occasions, on an exceptional basis, upon a decision by the Assembly;

(c) Will be chaired by the President of the Assembly;

(d) Will result in a concise negotiated political declaration to be submitted for the consideration of the Assembly;

7. *Further decides* that the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Will be convened annually by the President of the Council for a period of eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment to be held in the framework of the substantive session of the Council, building on and subsequently replacing the annual ministerial review as from 2016;

(b) Will be chaired by the President of the Council;

(c) Will have a thematic focus reflecting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, in line with the thematic focus of the activities of the Council and consistent with the post-2015 development agenda;

(d) Will follow up and review progress in the implementation of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, as well as their respective means of implementation, improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development programmes and policies, promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation of sustainable development and, on a voluntary basis, facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies;

(e) Will take into account the work of the Development Cooperation Forum, as well as other activities of the Economic and Social Council relating to the integration and implementation of sustainable development;

(f) Will benefit from regional preparatory processes;

(g) Will result in a negotiated ministerial declaration for inclusion in the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly;

8. *Decides* that the forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and further decides that those reviews:

(a) Will be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and will include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant United Nations entities;

(b) Will be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants;

(c) Will provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders;

(d) Will replace the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the annual ministerial-level substantive reviews of the Economic and Social

Council, building upon the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 61/16 as well as experiences and lessons learned in this context;

9. *Also decides* that all meetings convened under the auspices of the General Assembly will operate under the rules of procedure of the main committees of the Assembly, as applicable, unless otherwise provided in the present resolution, and that all meetings convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council will operate under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, as applicable, except as otherwise provided in the present resolution;

10. *Underlines* that the arrangement established by the Economic and Social Council for the Commission on Sustainable Development in Council decision 1995/201 of 8 February 1995 will apply to the meetings of the forum held under the auspices of the Council, and that the arrangements established by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 65/276 of 3 May 2011 will apply to the meetings of the forum held under the auspices of the Assembly;

11. *Decides* that the meetings of the forum will devote adequate time to discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and countries in Africa, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments and that they will recognize the particular challenges faced by the middle-income countries in achieving sustainable development, and reiterates that their efforts should be adequately supported by the international community in various forms, taking into account the needs of those countries and their capacity to mobilize domestic resources;

12. *Encourages* States to ensure that their participation in the meetings of the forum reflect the balanced integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development from their national perspectives;

13. *Acknowledges* the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the forum, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

14. *Stresses* the need for the forum to promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions, and in this regard decides that the forum will be open to the major groups, other relevant stakeholders and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the General Assembly, building on arrangements and practices observed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, including Economic and Social Council decision 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, which will be applicable to the forum;

15. *Decides*, in this regard, that, while retaining the intergovernmental character of the forum, the representatives of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders will be allowed:

(a) To attend all official meetings of the forum;

(b) To have access to all official information and documents;

(c) To intervene in official meetings;

(d) To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;

(e) To make recommendations;

(f) To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat of the United Nations;

16. *Encourages* the major groups identified in Agenda 21[3] and other stakeholders, such as private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, persons with disabilities, volunteer groups and other stakeholders active in areas related to sustainable development, to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the high-level political forum and for actions derived from that participation at the global, regional and national levels, in a way that ensures effective, broad and balanced participation by region and by type of organization;

17. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, including the World Trade Organization, to contribute within their respective mandates to the discussions of the forum;

18. *Emphasizes* that the forum shall provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development and that the agenda of all meetings of the high-level political forum will be focused, while allowing flexibility to address new and emerging issues;

19. *Reaffirms* that the forum shall contribute to the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels, and in this regard invites the forum to take into account the contributions and work of relevant United Nations intergovernmental bodies in the social, economic and environmental fields;

20. *Decides* that the forum will strengthen the science-policy interface by examining documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments, enhancing evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contributing to the strengthening of ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries, and requests the forum to consider, in 2014, the scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report, based on a proposal of the Secretary-General, reflecting the views and recommendations of Member States, and relevant United Nations entities, including the Committee for Development Policy;

21. *Also decides* that the forum can provide recommendations to the board of the 10-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production, as well as to the United Nations Environment Programme, as the secretariat of the 10-year framework, taking into account their reports;

22. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to coordinate with the Bureau of the Council and with the bureaux of the relevant committees of the General Assembly to organize the

activities of the forum so as to benefit from the inputs and advice of the United Nations system, the major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

23. *Decides* that the forum will be supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in close cooperation with all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes, multilateral financial and trade institutions, the secretariats of the three Rio conventions and other relevant treaty bodies and international organizations within their respective mandates;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to carry over all the remaining funds from the Trust Fund for Support of the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development to a voluntary trust fund of the forum in order to facilitate the participation of developing countries, the least developed countries, representatives of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in the work of the forum and to support the preparations of the forum, and in this regard invites Member States, financial institutions and other organizations to contribute to the voluntary trust fund of the forum;

25. *Decides* that travel expenses for one representative of each of the least developed countries will be paid from the United Nations regular budget for participation in all formal meetings of the forum;

26. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council abolish the Commission on Sustainable Development effective upon the conclusion of its twentieth session, to be held prior to the first meeting of the forum, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012;

27. *Decides* that the first meeting of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly will have an inaugural character, requests the President of the Assembly to convene the meeting at the beginning of the sixty-eighth session for the duration of one day, and decides that, on an extraordinary basis and only for the purpose of that meeting, the outcome of the meeting will consist of the President's summary;

28. *Also decides* to consider at its sixty-ninth session the need to convene a meeting of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2015 in relation to the launch of the post-2015 development agenda;

29. *Decides* to review the format and the organizational aspects of the forum at its seventy-third session, unless otherwise decided;

30. *Emphasizes* that the review of General Assembly resolution 61/16 should take into account the present resolution in order to avoid duplication.

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Agenda item 118 (b)
Strengthening of the United Nations system: central role of the United Nations system in global governance

Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay and Viet Nam: draft resolution

The United Nations in global economic governance

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/94 of 8 December 2010 and 66/256 of 16 March 2012,

Reaffirming its respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Acknowledging the vital importance of an inclusive, transparent and effective multilateral system in order to better address the urgent global challenges of today, recognizing the universality of the United Nations, and reaffirming its commitment to promote and strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming the role and authority of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter,

Acknowledging that the United Nations, particularly the General Assembly, provides a universal and inclusive multilateral forum which confers incomparable value to its discussions and its decisions on global matters of concern to the international community,

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Recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[1] and all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields for the promotion of sustainable development and their outcome and follow-up processes, in particular the International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus[3] and the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[4]

Recognizing the importance of effective global economic governance in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and reiterating its commitment to strengthen efforts to achieve those goals by 2015,

Recognizing also the need to deal with interconnected socioeconomic challenges, promote sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and sustainable development and strengthen mechanisms that reduce inequalities,

Acknowledging that global economic governance in an increasingly interconnected world is of critical importance for the success of national efforts for achieving sustainable development in all countries, and that, while efforts have been made over the years, there remains the need to continue improving global economic governance and to strengthen the role of the United Nations in this regard,

Recognizing the role of the regional commissions and the regional and subregional development banks in supporting policy dialogue among countries at the regional level on macroeconomic, financial, trade and development issues and the importance of other regional, interregional and subregional initiatives and arrangements, including integration processes, aimed at promoting development and cooperation among their members,

Noting the critical importance of the ongoing efforts of multilateral institutions, particularly those of the United Nations system, to find common solutions to global challenges and the relevance of intergovernmental groupings that make policy recommendations or take policy decisions with global implications, and recognizing the benefits derived from increased interaction with those groupings, with a view to promoting transparency and coherence and strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation in matters of global economic governance,

Welcoming the holding of the informal thematic debate on "The United Nations and global economic governance" organized by the President of the General Assembly on 15 April 2013 and the informal thematic debate on "The United Nations in global economic governance", organized by the President of the Economic and Social Council on 16 May 2013, and noting the views expressed therein by all participants, including the representatives of Member States and other high-level participants,

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[1] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[4] See resolution 63/303, annex.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on global economic governance and development;[5]

2. *Reiterates* the need for inclusive, transparent and effective multilateral approaches to managing global challenges, and in this regard reaffirms the central role of the United Nations system in ongoing efforts to find common solutions to such challenges;

3. *Recognizes* the important role of the United Nations, including through international conferences and summits, in providing an intergovernmental forum for universal dialogue and consensus on global challenges, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, including from the private sector, civil society and academia;

4. *Reaffirms* the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well as the role of the Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the Economic and Social Council is a principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and for the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and a central mechanism for the coordination of the United Nations system by strengthening system-wide coherence and as a principal body in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and stresses the importance of the substantive discussions of the special high-level meetings of the Economic and Social Council with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the participation of civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders;

6. *Stresses*, in this context, the positive contribution to more effective global economic governance of the ongoing processes of revitalization of the General Assembly and strengthening of the Economic and Social Council;

7. *Reaffirms* the value of multilateralism to the global trading system and its commitment to achieving a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that contributes to growth, sustainable development and employment generation in all sectors, and emphasize that bilateral and regional trading arrangements should contribute and be complementary to the goals of the multilateral trading system;

8. *Expresses serious concern* at the lack of progress in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, reiterates the call for the necessary flexibility and political will in order to break the current impasse in the negotiations, and in this regard calls for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda multilateral trade negotiations, in keeping with the development mandate of the Doha Round Ministerial Declaration,[6] the decision of 1 August 2004 of the General Council of the World

[5] A/67/769.

[6] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

Trade Organization[7] and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;[8]

9. *Recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems and the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness as complements to national development efforts to ensure sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

10. *Stresses* that the financial and economic crisis has highlighted the need for reform as well as added new impetus to ongoing international discussions on the reform of the international financial system and architecture, encourages, in this regard, continued open, inclusive and transparent dialogue, and notes the important efforts undertaken nationally, regionally and internationally to respond to the challenges posed by the financial and economic crisis;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, notes in this regard the important steps taken on the reform of the governance structures, quotas and voting rights of the Bretton Woods institutions, which go in the direction of better reflecting current realities and enhancing the voice, the participation and the voting rights of developing countries, and recognizes the importance of continuing such reform processes in an ambitious and expeditious manner in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions;

12. *Recognizes* the importance and benefit of continuing interaction between the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, with international and regional forums, organizations and groups dealing with global matters of concern to the international community, as appropriate, and underlines in this context the importance of flexible and regular interaction between the United Nations and intergovernmental groupings that make policy recommendations or take policy decisions with global implications, including the Group of 20;

13. *Welcomes* the practice of informal engagement between the United Nations and intergovernmental groupings that make policy recommendations or take policy decisions with global implications, including the Group of 20, through informal briefings organized at the initiative of the President of the General Assembly, and in this regard invites the President of the General Assembly to continue this practice by inviting appropriate representatives to an interactive dialogue with the membership of the General Assembly in order to ensure continuity in their engagement, with a view to promoting transparency and coherence as well as strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation in matters of global economic governance;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of the interaction between the Secretary-General and the Member States of the General Assembly regarding the participation of the Secretary-General in summits of intergovernmental groupings that make

[7] World Trade Organization, document WT/L/579.

[8] World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(05)/DEC.

policy recommendations or take policy decisions with global implications, including the summits of the Group of 20, and invites the President of the General Assembly to continue organizing informal meetings for that purpose;

15. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations in the promotion of international cooperation for development, and in this regard recognizes the role of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council;

16. *Recognizes* that, in order to complement national development efforts, there is an urgent need to enhance the coherence, governance and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, and in this regard underlines the importance of continuing to improve global economic governance and strengthening the United Nations leadership role in promoting development;

17. *Reaffirms* the need to better incorporate regional and subregional organizations and arrangements into the framework of global governance, and to that end recognizes the importance of regional and subregional integration processes for economic governance and development, in pursuit of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, especially as such purposes and principles can effectively be pursued through regional and subregional action;

18. *Recognizes* the importance and benefits of a continuing interaction between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations and arrangements dealing with global matters of concern to the international community, and encourages the United Nations system, and in particular the regional commissions, to support and cooperate with such regional and subregional processes in their efforts to promote sustainable development;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations system", the sub-item entitled "Central role of the United Nations system in global governance";

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, exploring options and ideas for continuing interaction between the United Nations and intergovernmental groupings, to be prepared in consultation with Member States and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, taking into account the post-2015 development agenda and the follow-up processes to all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, as appropriate;

21. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to consider jointly organizing informal thematic debates on the subject of the present resolution, inviting the regional commissions, international financial and trade institutions and the Financial Stability Board, as well as representatives of civil society, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders, to contribute to such deliberations, as appropriate.

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Strengthening of the United Nations system: central role of the United Nations system in global governance

Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay and Viet Nam: draft resolution

The United Nations in global economic governance

Addendum

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Andorra, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and United Arab Emirates

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Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 120
Multilingualism

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Niger, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia and Turkmenistan: draft resolution

Multilingualism

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that multilingualism contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally,

Recognizing further, in this regard, that genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding, and recognizing the importance of the capacity to communicate to the peoples of the world in their own languages, including in formats accessible to persons with disabilities,

Stressing the need for strict observance of the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the different bodies and organs of the United Nations,

Recalling that Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are both the official and the working languages of the General Assembly, including its committees and subcommittees,[1] and of the Security Council,[2] that Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the official languages and English, French

[1] Rule 51 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
[2] Rule 41 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

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and Spanish the working languages of the Economic and Social Council,[3] and that English and French are the working languages of the Secretariat,[4]

Emphasizing the importance of multilingualism in the activities of the United Nations, including those linked to public relations and information,

Recalling its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[5] in particular article 27 thereof, concerning the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities,

Recalling also its resolutions 2 (I) of 1 February 1946, 2480 B (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, 42/207 C of 11 December 1987 and 50/11 of 2 November 1995, and other subsequent resolutions relating to multilingualism, including resolutions 65/311 of 19 July 2011, 66/294 of 17 September 2012, 66/297 of 17 September 2012, 67/124 B of 18 December 2012, 67/237 of 24 December 2012 and 67/255 of 12 April 2013,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

I. Multilingualism in general and the role of the Secretariat

2. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

3. *Underlines* the need for full implementation of the resolutions establishing language arrangements for the official languages of the United Nations and the working languages of the Secretariat;

4. *Also underlines* the responsibility of the Secretariat in integrating multilingualism into its activities, from within existing resources, on an equitable basis;

5. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the continuation of the functions of Coordinator for Multilingualism within the Secretariat, and calls upon all Departments and Offices within the Secretariat to support the work of the Coordinator;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to develop the network of focal points supporting the Coordinator for Multilingualism in effectively and consistently implementing relevant resolutions throughout the Secretariat, and invites the Secretary-General, through his role in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to support a coordinated approach on multilingualism within the United Nations system, taking into consideration the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on multilingualism;[7]

7. *Welcomes* the implementation, within the United Nations, of a day dedicated to each of the official languages in order to inform and raise awareness of

[3] Rule 32 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.
[4] Resolution 2 (I).
[5] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[6] A/67/311.
[7] A/67/78.

their history, culture and use, encourages the Secretary-General to further strengthen this approach in a cost-neutral manner, if needed through the participation of partner organizations, including Member States and institutions such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and also encourages the Secretary-General to consider extending this important initiative to other non-official languages spoken throughout the world;

8. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by international organizations based on a shared language to increase their cooperation with the United Nations regarding multilingualism;

9. *Further welcomes* the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Member States, entities of the United Nations system, other international organizations and all other participating bodies aimed at fostering respect for and the promotion and protection of all languages, in particular endangered ones, linguistic diversity and multilingualism;

10. *Reaffirms* that linguistic diversity is an important element of cultural diversity, stresses the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,[8] which entered into force on 18 March 2007, and recalls the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace of 15 October 2003;[9]

II. Role of the Department of Public Information in multilingualism

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of making use of all the official languages of the United Nations, ensuring their full and equitable treatment in all the activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, with the aim of eliminating the disparity between the use of English and the use of the five other official languages, and in this regard reaffirms its request that the Secretary-General ensure that the Department has the necessary staffing capacity in all the official languages to undertake all of its activities;

12. *Encourages* the Department of Public Information to continue to use other languages in addition to the official languages when appropriate, according to the targeted audience, with a view to reaching the widest possible spectrum of audiences and extending the United Nations message to all the corners of the world, in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization;

13. *Welcomes* the work carried out by the United Nations information centres, including the United Nations Regional Information Centre, in favour of the publication of United Nations information materials and the translation of important documents into languages other than the official languages of the United Nations, with a view to reaching the widest possible audience and extending the United Nations message to all corners of the world in order to strengthen international

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[8] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-third Session, Paris, 3-21 October 2005*, vol.1 and corrigenda: *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 41.

[9] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-second Session, Paris, 29 September-17 October 2003*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, chap. IV, recommendation 41.

support for the activities of the Organization, and encourages United Nations information centres to continue their important multilingual activities in the interactive and proactive aspects of their work, in particular by arranging seminars and debates to further the spread of information, understanding and the exchange of views regarding United Nations activities at the local and regional level;

14. *Also welcomes* the sustained effort to disseminate information globally by use of official and non-official languages and traditional means of communication, and in this regard expresses its particular appreciation for the work currently being carried out by United Nations Radio in the six official languages, as well as non-official languages;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that, in view of their income-generating nature, guided tours at United Nations Headquarters are consistently available in all six official languages of the United Nations;

16. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to also offer guided tours at United Nations Headquarters in non-official languages;

17. *Notes* with interest the cost-neutral initiatives of the Secretariat to produce publications in official and non-official languages, to increase the volume of translated publications and to encourage a multilingual acquisition policy for the libraries of the United Nations, and requests the Secretariat to continue those initiatives;

III. Websites and other web-based communication tools

18. *Reaffirms* the need to achieve full parity among the six official languages on all United Nations websites, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to include in his upcoming report on multilingualism a comprehensive review of the United Nations websites, including content discrepancies among official languages, as well as to identify innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-neutral measures to achieve full parity among the six official languages;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his upcoming report on multilingualism a comprehensive review of United Nations websites, presenting the status of content in non-official languages, as well as identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-neutral measures to reinforce the broader multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations websites, as appropriate;

20. *Urges* the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts to develop, maintain and update multilingual United Nations websites and the web page of the Secretary-General in all the official languages of the United Nations, from within existing resources and on an equitable basis;

21. *Reaffirms* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure, while maintaining an up-to-date and accurate website, the equitable distribution of financial and human resources within the Department of Public Information allocated to the United Nations website among all six official languages, with full respect for the needs and specificities of all six languages;

22. *Notes with concern* that the multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations website in certain official languages has improved at a much slower rate than expected, and in this regard requests the Department of Public Information, in coordination with content-providing offices, to advance actions to achieve full parity among the six official languages on the United Nations website, in particular by expediting the filling of vacant posts in some sections;

23. *Takes note* of sections II.D and II.E of the report of the Secretary-General,[10] requests the Secretary-General to continue his ongoing efforts in this regard, and urges all content-providing offices in the Secretariat to strengthen their efforts to translate into all official languages all English-language materials and databases posted on the United Nations website in the most practical, efficient and cost-effective manner, from within existing resources;

24. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Secretariat, to continue its efforts to ensure that technological infrastructures and supportive applications fully support Latin, non-Latin and bidirectional scripts in order to enhance the equality of all official languages on the United Nations website;

25. *Welcomes* the cooperative arrangements undertaken by the Department of Public Information with academic institutions to increase the number of web pages available in official and non-official languages, and requests the Secretary-General, in coordination with content-providing offices, to extend such cooperative arrangements, in a cost-effective manner, to all the official languages of the United Nations, bearing in mind the necessity of adherence to United Nations standards and guidelines;

26. *Underlines* the importance of the implementation of new communication tools, such as social networks, in order to take into account the linguistic dimension and to assure full parity among the official languages of the Organization;

27. *Urges* the Secretariat to keep iSeek up to date in the two working languages of the Secretariat, to continue its efforts to implement iSeek at all duty stations and to develop and implement cost-neutral measures to provide Member States with secure access to the information currently accessible only on the Intranet of the Secretariat;

IV. Documentation and conference services

28. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents onto the United Nations website in all six official languages on a priority basis so that those archives are also made available to Member States through that medium;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure, through the provision of documentation services and meetings and publishing services under conference management, including high-quality translation and interpretation, effective multilingual communication equally in all the official languages of the United Nations among representatives of Member States in intergovernmental organs and among members of United Nations expert bodies;

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/66/19).

30. *Reiterates with concern* its request that the Secretary-General ensure that the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in all six official languages are strictly respected as regards both the distribution of printed copies and the posting of parliamentary documentation on the Official Document System and the United Nations website, in accordance with section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 55/222 of 23 December 2000;

31. *Underlines* that all the initiatives on the evolution of the working methods, including those introduced on a trial basis, shall comply with the principle of parity among the official languages of the Organization, with a view to preserving or enhancing the quality and scope of the services provided by the Secretariat;

V. Human resources management and staff training

32. *Recalls* its resolution 67/255, in particular paragraph 35 thereof, in which it reaffirmed the need to respect the equality of the two working languages of the Secretariat, reaffirmed the use of additional working languages in specific duty stations as mandated, and in that regard requested the Secretary-General to ensure that vacancy announcements specified the need for either of the working languages of the Secretariat, unless the functions of the post required a specific working language;

33. *Notes with satisfaction* the willingness of the Secretariat to encourage staff members, in meetings with interpretation services, to use any of the six official languages of which they have a command;

34. *Encourages* United Nations staff members to continue to actively use existing training facilities to acquire and enhance their proficiency in one or more of the official languages of the United Nations;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the efforts to ensure that training opportunities in the six official languages are equally available to all staff;

36. *Recalls* section II, paragraph 17, of its resolution 61/244 of 22 December 2006, in which it acknowledged that the interaction of the United Nations with the local population in the field was essential and that language skills constituted an important element of the selection and training processes and therefore affirmed that a good command of the official language(s) spoken in the country of residence should be taken into account as an additional asset during those processes;

37. *Stresses* that the employment of staff shall continue to be carried out in strict accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and in line with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions;

38. *Invites* the Secretary-General to ensure compliance with the requirement for United Nations staff to have the ability to use one of the working languages of the Secretariat, and encourages the Secretary-General to further the implementation of resolution 2480 B (XXIII);

39. *Also invites* the Secretary-General to take the appropriate measures to consider the linguistic specificities mentioned in vacancy announcements during the composition of interview panels for the employment of United Nations staff;

40. *Stresses* that the promotion of staff in the Professional and higher categories shall be carried out in strict accordance with Article 101 of the Charter and in line with the provisions of resolution 2480 B (XXIII) and the relevant provisions of resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001;

VI. Language services staff

41. *Recalls* its resolution 66/233 of 24 December 2011, in particular paragraph 7 of section III thereof, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages, and in that regard recalls section D, paragraph 11, of its resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999;

42. *Acknowledges* the measures undertaken by the Secretary-General, in accordance with its resolutions, to address the issue of the replacement of retiring staff in the language services, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and intensify those efforts, including through the strengthening of cooperation with institutions that train language specialists to meet the needs in the six official languages of the United Nations;

VII. Field offices and peacekeeping operations

43. *Stresses* the importance of proposing United Nations information, technical assistance and training materials, whenever possible, in the local languages of the beneficiary countries, including through locally-based United Nations websites;

44. *Recalls* its resolution 66/297, in which it endorsed the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;[1]

45. *Takes note* of section II.D.1 of the report of the Secretary-General, requests the Secretary-General to continue his ongoing efforts in this regard, and recalls its resolution 66/297 without prejudice to Article 101 of the Charter;

46. *Urges* the Secretariat to translate all peacekeeping training documents into the six official languages of the United Nations, from within existing resources, to enable and facilitate their use by all Member States, troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries, in particular, and by other involved institutions;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, a comprehensive report on the full implementation of its resolutions on multilingualism;

48. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Multilingualism".

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[1] Ibid., paras. 16-289.